IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the pending claims:

1-36. (cancelled).

37. (previously presented) An access method, comprising:

receiving at a storage engine a certificate from the host device, the certificate containing a digital signature;

authenticating the digital signature;

receiving at the storage engine a file request from the authenticated host device, the file request being directed to a file stored on a storage medium accessible to the storage engine;

within the storage engine, reading security metadata associated with the file from the storage medium, the security metadata containing at least one rule governing access to the file;

within the storage engine, applying the at least one rule to the file request from the host device; and

if the application of the at least one rule provides a failing result, denying the file request.

- 38. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the at least one rule comprises a plurality of rules.
- 39. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the storage medium is an optical disk.

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- 40. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the application of the at least one rule act comprises checking play privileges for the host device.
- 41. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising: if the application of the at least one rule provides a successful result, granting the file request.
- 42. (cancelled)
- 43. (cancelled)

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